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# NAVY NEWS

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American citizens board a U.S. Marine CH-53 Super Stallion combat assault helicopter in a field inside the U.S. Embassy housing compound in Tirana, Albania. U.S. Marines from the Amphibious Readiness Group led by the amphibious assault ship USS *Nassau* (LHA 4) evacuated citizens from Albania after a loss of social order in that country. (U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Brett Siegel).

## CNO meets Sailors in Hawaii

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) — Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay Johnson addressed more than 400 Sailors during an "all-hands" call in Pearl Harbor 16 March. The three day stop was CNO's second visit to Hawaii since becoming the Navy's 26th CNO last August, but his first opportunity to talk to Sailors here. During the hour-long all-hands call, Johnson discussed a number of topics from force structure to downsizing.

CNO was returning to Washington after visiting Australia and Pacific Fleet Units involved in Exercise Tandem Thrust, including USS *Independence* (CV 62), USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19), USS

Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) and USS *Germantown* (LSD 42).

"I think it's useful to look at what our Navy does on a day to day basis," said Johnson. "Today, we have 351 ships in the Navy. We have about half a million of you and me (Sailors) out there around the world. When I checked this morning, 50 per cent of those 351 ships were underway. Thirty-one per cent, that's 109 ships, are forward deployed. We've got six exercises or operations ongoing today, and we're making port calls in 13 countries.

"That's just a typical day of work for the U.S. Navy," he continued. "And we do that 365 days of the year. It's called

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## Naval forces evacuate Americans from Albania, aid refugees at sea

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Forward-deployed U.S. Navy forces, engaged in evacuating American and others from Albania, have also rescued scores of Albanians from the sea. USS *Leyte Gulf* (CG 55) rescued 20 Albanians Monday off the coast of Albania after an SH-60 Sea Hawk helicopter from the cruiser spotted a powerless 25-foot vessel drifting in the Adriatic Sea. Because the boat appeared to be taking on water, *Leyte Gulf's* commanding officer, CAPT C.S. Vogan, gave the order to investigate the situation.

*Leyte Gulf* arrived on the scene 27 minutes after the helo sighted the vessel, and immediately launched a rescue boat with an investigation team. Shortly after *Leyte Gulf* launched the small boat, the vessel's passengers began jumping into the sea, leaving their personal

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## SECDEF Cohen: DOD will enforce 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy

by Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — DOD will enforce the "don't ask, don't tell" homosexual policy adopted three years ago, said Defense Secretary William Cohen.

"If I find the policy is being violated, that there is active pursuit in prosecution, then I will do whatever I can to see it's stopped," Cohen said.

He responded to questions on the policy after a civilian legal aid organization reported the policy is resulting in more service members being discharged for homosexuality than in the past.

# Sailors remain top priority in end-strength planning

by LT Pamela Kunze, BUPERS Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- In order to maintain key personnel programs and to most efficiently arrive at the FY98 end strength target of 390,000 contained in the President's budget, the Navy will accelerate into FY97 a few thousand personnel reductions planned for FY98, and finish FY97 with an end strength of 395,500.

The Navy will achieve these reduc-

## Career opportunities as Navy linguist (CTI) now available

by LT Lydia Robertson, BUPERS Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Sailors with language skills may have a career opportunity as a Navy Linguist (Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) (CTI)), according to NAVADMIN 61/97, released by the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS).

The Navy needs Sailors who proficiently speak, read and/or write a foreign language, specifically E-2s through E-5s in the following languages: Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Persian-Farsi, Chinese (Mandarin), Korean, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Serbian and Croatian, and Russian.

Sailors in CREO II or III ratings, merging or disestablishing ratings; or undesignated seamen, firemen or airmen are especially encouraged to consider the rate conversion.

As a CREO I rating, CTI has excellent advancement opportunity (E-4 at 100 percent), outstanding SRB offerings and special language proficiency pay.

NAVADMIN 61/97 contains further details on application requirements and rating benefits.

For more information on conversion and testing, Sailors should contact their career counselor.

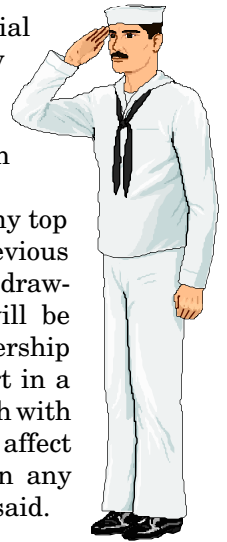
tions primarily through reduced accessions and continued use of voluntary loss programs.

"This accelerated end strength reduction is not a new cut," said VADM Daniel T. Oliver, the Chief of Naval Personnel. "It is merely the continuation of our plan to arrive at affordable, sustainable force requirements driven by the 1993 Bottom Up Review."

Moving some of the planned personnel reductions into FY97 allows the Navy to maintain key programs important to Sailors, including selective reenlistment bonus (SRB), advancements,

career sea pay, special duty assignment pay and the voluntary education programs of PACE and tuition assistance.

"Sailors remain my top priority. As with previous reductions during the draw-down, great care will be taken by Navy leadership to manage this effort in a way which keeps faith with our people. It will not affect our career Sailors in any way," VADM Oliver said.



## Deadline for Senior Enlisted Academies selection board applications set May 1

by LT Lydia Robertson, BUPERS Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — The Senior Enlisted Academies selection board is scheduled to convene in May for classes convening January through June 1998. Eligible senior and master chiefs should have their applications submitted to the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) by May 1.

The selection boards meet as necessary, but not less than semi-annually (May and November), according to NAVADMIN 62/97. Candidates may request one of four academies — Navy Senior Enlisted Academy, NETC Newport, R.I.; Air Force NCO Academy, Gunther AFB, Ala.; Coast Guard CPO Academy, Petaluma, Calif.; and Army Sergeant Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Applications must be submitted via the chain of command to Chief of Naval Personnel (PERS-40FF) using the enlisted personnel action request (NAVPERS 1306/7). Applications for the May selection board are due May 1. The November selection board, which selects for academies convening July through December 1998 are due no later than Oct. 1. Applicants must be in paygrade E-8 or E-9 to attend class. Selectees for E-8 must be

frocked or advanced prior to the class convening date of the senior enlisted academy classes to be eligible.

NAVADMIN 62/97 contains further details on number of seats per class, class convening dates, class length, eligibility requirements and necessary application information.

An administration selection board will identify the most qualified applicants, and results will be published by BUPERS by message following each board.

For more information contact BMC(M/SW) Robert Dobler, (Pers-40FF) at (703)697-5031 (DSN 227).

## NAVY'S WEB SITE HOT WITH INTERNAUTS

The Web's most popular government-produced sites, as measured by PC Meter LP, a market-research service that tracks consumer's computer usage by installing a special tracking program on the PCs of volunteers in a sample group:

Rank/Site	Address
1. NASA	<a href="http://www.nasa.gov">http://www.nasa.gov</a>
2. Nat'l Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	<a href="http://www.noaa.gov">http://www.noaa.gov</a>
3. White House	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov">http://www.whitehouse.gov</a>
4. Library of Congress	<a href="http://www.loc.gov">http://www.loc.gov</a>
5. Navy Department	<a href="http://www.navy.mil">http://www.navy.mil</a>
5. U.S. Postal Service (tie)	<a href="http://www.usps.gov">http://www.usps.gov</a>
5. Nat'l Institutes of Health (tie)	<a href="http://www.nih.gov">http://www.nih.gov</a>

\* From Wall Street Journal March 13, 1997.



# HAWAII

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forward presence. You live forward presence here. You either deploy or you support it, but that's what we are all about — forward presence."

Johnson also added his assessment of how the Navy is doing in the world, saying the Navy is executing as well as ever, and it's the approximately 500 thousand active and reserve Sailors that make it happen.

"The U.S. Navy is doing fine, thank you very much."

Johnson said his people are his top priority, a priority he includes in his decision making process.

"There's a lot of issues I deal with day in and day out," Johnson explained. "What I do in every instance, is I embed the impact that decision I'm about to make has on people right in the middle of the whole decision making process."

"By the way," he added, "you're all volunteers. The half-million I just described to you, they're only here because they want to be here, not because they have to be here. So, with an all-volunteer force, and their superb quality, the onus is on all of us to make sure

we take care of you."

Johnson encouraged Sailors to take pride in what they do. "You do stuff on an average day in the Navy, than a lot of your civilian friends won't do in a week or a month or even a year. Every once in a while, it's probably O.K. to give yourself some credit for that, a pat on the back, I did good today."

"We have an awesome Navy. You are an integral part of that Navy."

Johnson also addressed the issue of "zero defects" he said while there are areas of our lives that required zero defects, such as on a flight deck of an aircraft carrier or in matters of law, "between the two is the whole rest of our lives."

"The major concern I have...[is] we want to make sure that the number gives us exactly what we need and if we have to go down any further in the years beyond that, that is done for the right reasons."

Johnson defined the right reason as being able to leverage new technology, to be more innovative and efficient.

Johnson concluded the all-hands call reiterating that Sailors to be proud of what they do. I'm very proud to be your CNO, and to be the beneficiary of all the good work

that's done out here."

Sailors in the audience were positive about the CNO's comments.

"It was really good to come and represent the ship, and go back to our division and let them know what's going on in the navy and how things have improved," said Seaman Apprentice Stephen Otten, a USS Willamette (AO 180) Sailor.

"A lot more issues about quality of life were brought out," commented Yeoman 3rd Class Bon Polum Naval Station Military Personnel office. "It was good info, and I hope he gets to come out here more often and brief us on the results of the things we talked about [today]."

The CNO also met with area commanding officers and command master chiefs at a luncheon, as well as with Admiral Archie Clemmins, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

## SURFPAC Battle 'E' winners named



COMNAVSURFPAC (NWSA) — The Commander of the Pacific Fleet's surface force, VADM Alexander J. Krekich, USN, has named the winners of the prestigious SURFPAC Battle Efficiency award for 1996. The award recognizes sustained superior performance in an operational environment, day-to-day demonstrated excellence and superior achievement during certifications and qualifications.

Winning SURFPAC ships are: USS Princeton (CG 59), USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Chosin (CG 65), USS Shiloh (CG 67), USS Cowpens (CG 63), USS Essex (LHD 2), USS Cleveland (LPD 7), USS Anchorage (LSD 36), USS Rushmore (LSD 47), USS Willamette (AO 180), USS Rainier (AOE 7), USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3), USS George Philip (FFG 12), USS Cushing (DD 985), USS McClusky (FFG 41), USS Callaghan (DDG 994), USS O'Brien (DD 975), USS Stethem (DDG 63), USS Vandegrift (FFG 48) and USS Russell (DDG 59).

# LEYTE GULF

● continued from page 1

belongings behind, to swim towards Leyte Gulf.

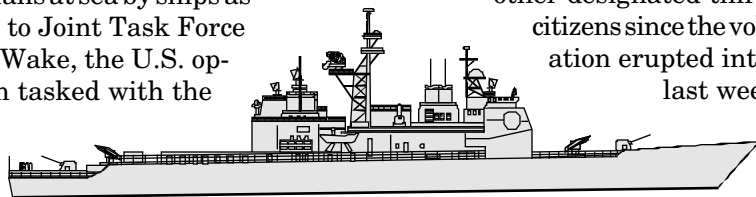
The rescue boat recovered 20 Albanian men and brought the drifting vessel under tow. The Albanian refugees were at sea for five days, three of them without food or fresh water. Of the 20 passengers, three were severely dehydrated and required medical assistance.

This was the third rescue of Albanians at sea by ships assigned to Joint Task Force Silver Wake, the U.S. operation tasked with the

non-combatant evacuation of Albania. Sunday evening, USS *Nassau* rescued two vessels in distress with 85 Albanians aboard.

March 13, four Sea Knight helicopters and the elements of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit from USS *Nashville* (LPD 13) and USS *Pensacola* (LSD 38) evacuated 51 Americans from Tirana, Albania, after the city's airport was closed to commercial aircraft by civil unrest.

The Navy-Marine Corps team has evacuated more than 808 American and other designated third-country citizens since the volatile situation erupted into fighting last week.



## SURFPAC announces new maintenance scheduling philosophy

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- In a move which will have an important impact on all Naval Surface Force, Pacific (SURFPAC) Sailors, SURFPAC is implementing a new maintenance philosophy. This approach will spread out ships' repair periods and avoid most long-term shipyard visits. The goal is for ships to undergo major maintenance for no more than nine weeks at any one stretch of time.

The initiative is designed to reduce the atrophy in warfighting skills during extended repair periods. The initiative will not only keep ships' and Sailors' warfighting skills at a higher level, but also permit a more level loading of the public and private maintenance facilities serving SURFPAC ships.

"When you spend lengthy time periods in port and experience significant

crew turnover over several months, you constantly have to go back to square one," said VADM Alexander J. Krekich, Commander, Naval Surface Force, Pacific.

The new approach will be a real benefit for Sailors and junior officers working on Enlisted Surface Warfare and Surface Warfare Officer qualifications. Shorter periods tied to the pier in an industrial environment minimizes the disruption it poses to learning to be surface warriors and achieving professional milestones.

"We can do the maintenance needed, but instead of having to go six straight months, why not do it in two steps and only have to go back to square four after completion of the maintenance? You still get the same amount of maintenance, but in the meantime you keep

going back to sea, and that's what our business is about: going to sea and keeping our warfighting skills sharp," he added.

"This will be a good way to increase our readiness to possibly shorten the total time required for training, and provide the taxpayers with a better Surface Navy," said ADM Krekich. "I'm starting this now, and I think the commanding officers, our leaders whose training efforts will benefit from this, are excited about it."

### Status of the Navy

March 7, 1997

**Personnel:** 402,796 active duty;  
234,862 Ready Reserves; 97,971  
Selected Reserves; 136,891 Indiv.  
Ready Reserve; 213,048 civilians

**Aircraft:** 4,754

**Ships:** 351

**At Sea:** 182 ships (52%)

**Deployed:** 109 ships

**Personnel Deployed:** 49,471

**Exercises:** 6

**Port Visits:** 11

**SSNs at Sea:** 36 (49%)

**Carriers/Air Wings at Sea:**

USS *Kitty Hawk*/CVW-11: port visit,  
Hobart, Australia

USS *Theodore Roosevelt*/CVW-3:  
transit, Red Sea

USS *Independence*: TANDEM  
THRUST, western Pacific

USS *John F. Kennedy*: JTFEX  
97-2, western Atlantic

USS *John C. Stennis*: Carrier  
quals, western Atlantic

**LHAs/LHDs/LPHs/MCSs at Sea:**

USS *Essex*/11th MEU: TANDEM  
THRUST, western Pacific

USS *Nassau*/26th MEU: local  
operations, Mediterranean Sea  
USS *Peleliu*: local operations,  
eastern Pacific

USS *New Orleans*: TANDEM  
THRUST, western Pacific

USS *Kearsarge*: JTFEX 97-2,  
western Atlantic

USS *Inchon*: transit, Gulf of Mexico

**Ships Assigned to Middle East  
Force:** USS *Paul Hamilton*, USS  
*Leftwich*, USS *Fletcher*, USS *Ar-*  
*dent*, USS *Dextrous*, USS  
*Nicholson*, USS *Halyburton*

**Other Exercises/Operations:**

Operations *Silver Wake*,  
Mediterranean Sea

Counter-Drug Operations, Carib-  
bean/East Pacific

Maritime Interception Operations,  
Arabian Gulf

Operation *Southern Watch*,  
Arabian Gulf

Spontex, eastern Atlantic

Exercise *Dogu Akeniz*,  
Mediterranean Sea

### USNS *Bob Hope* christened

WASHINGTON (NWSA)—Christening ceremonies for the Navy's newest Military Sealift Command (MSC) ship took place March 15 at Avondale Shipyards in New Orleans.

The ship was named USNS *Bob Hope* (T-AKR 300) in honor of the veteran entertainer's decades of devoted service to U.S. military men and women around the world.

Secretary of the Navy, John Dalton, was the principal speaker at the ceremony. Hope attended the ceremony with his wife, Dolores, who christened the ship. This is the first time an MSC ship has been named for an entertainer.

USNS *Bob Hope* is the first of 14 large, medium speed, roll-on, roll-off ships constructed from the keel up for the Military Sealift Command. They are being built to enhance strategic sealift capability as identified following the Persian Gulf War. The Defense Mobility Requirements Study recommended that DOD add 5 million square feet of sealift capability to ensure adequate at-sea prepositioning and urge shipping of U.S. military cargo.

USNS *Bob Hope* will join MSC's Afloat Prepositioning Force in 1998.

# Deployed Sailors getting self-service laundries

*Courtesy of Navy Exchange Service Command Public Affairs*

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NWSB) — You are pulling into port tomorrow but you forgot to get your clothing to the ship's laundry in time to have it back for liberty call. A solution is on the way for more Sailors — more self-service ship laundries. Until now, a few ships in the fleet installed self-service laundry machines wherever they would fit, but there was no program in place for the planned installation of self-service laundries on Navy ships. With the support of COMNAVAIRLANT and COMNAV-AIRPAC, the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) has begun planning for self-service laundry facilities on aircraft carriers.

Self-service laundries are already installed aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).

"The crew really loves this program. The machines are being used continuously, and there have been little or no

problems with them," said Dave Powell, habitability manager for the NEXCOM's Ship Store Program.

How could thousands of Sailors be using these machines day in and day out without there being serious maintenance problems? Theodore Roosevelt installed machines that are more like the ones found in a Laundromat than the one in your home and the ship carries a spare parts kit in case any mechanical problems develop.

Fourteen washers and 21 dryers are being installed aboard USS George Washington (CVN 73). That should be completed in March. Next in line is USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69).

Sailors on aircraft carriers won't be the only ones to benefit from this program. New construction AOE, LSD, LPD and AS ship types are being built with self-service laundries. Other ships will receive self-service laundries as funding becomes available.

## Notable Quotable

*"I find it the perfect match to name this class of modern sealift ships the Bob Hope. Bob is the 'King of Class...' a true patriot who has devoted his life to bringing a bit of home to our forces around the globe. Like their namesake, the Bob Hope class will provide a lift — replenishing the body and soul — when our Soldiers and Marines need it most."* — **SECNAV John Dalton at the christening ceremony for USNS Bob Hope (T-AKR-300).**

APRIL										1994	
su	mo	tue	wed	thu	fri	sa	su	mon	tue	we	th
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6

## IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL												1992		
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15														16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Bureau of Naval Personnel is reminding Sailors of upcoming selection boards, application deadlines and other important dates for Navy men and women.

**April** Military Child Month  
Child Abuse Prevention Month

**Apr. 1** NASA Astronaut board  
Navy Savings Bond campaign begins

**Apr. 2** Reserve E-7 Special board

**Apr. 6** Daylight Savings Time begins

**Apr. 7** Civil Engineer Corps O-5 Command screen board  
SECNAV's Retiree Council

**Apr. 14** Active O-5 Staff board

**Apr. 15** E-9 evals due  
Federal/State Income Tax returns due

**Apr. 17** Joint Specialty Officer #2 board

**Apr. 21** Reserve O-5 Line board

**Apr. 28** Submarine CO/XO board

**Apr. 29** Active O-4 Line board

**Apr. 30** Mid-term counseling for O-4 (active), O-3 (TAR and inactive) and E-1/2/3  
Aviation Department Head board

**May** Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month  
National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

**May 1** National Day of Prayer

**May 5** Active O-4 Staff board

**May 12** Civil Engineer Corps O-6 Command Screen board  
Active O-6 Chaplain Corps board  
SWO Department Head Screening board  
Reserve O-5/O-6 Staff board  
Reserve LDO Staff board

**May 19** Memorial Day

**May 26** Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program board

**May 27** MCPON pre-selection board

**May 28** TAR aviation OIC board

**May 31** O-1 Active fitness reports due  
Mid-term counseling due for E-6 and O-2